Message

Sent: 2/29/2020 7:23:13 AM
To: Barton, Clete [Clete.Barton@dnr.ga.gov]
CC: Liz Booth [Elizabeth.Booth@dnr.ga.gov]; Jackson, Reid [Reid.Jackson@dnr.ga.gov]
Subject: RE: PFAS Sampling Blanks

Hello Clete,

I enjoyed working with your group last week, I hope everything is going well as your prepare for your upcoming study.

In regards to blanks, we have not had any hits on any blanks thus far (field blanks, equipment rinse blanks, glove blanks and trip blanks). We do implement engineering controls to eliminate PFAS contamination whenever possible. This includes:

1.) Selection of sampling equipment with materials that do not contain any known fluorinated components.
2.) Decontamination of that equipment with Luminox and PFAS-free water prepared by the lab.
3.) Implementation of trace-level sampling techniques (e.g. clean-hands/dirty-hands).

This process has been working quite successfully for our field crews. Due to the diverse use of PFAS compounds as water proofing, flame-resistant, and stain-repellant agents, their use in clothing and field gear is always a concern (either as a material component, liner, or coating). We have not been recommending that field personnel forego appropriate PPE when safety necessitates its use. However, by implementing proper trace-level sampling techniques the sampler should not be introducing contamination via their persons or field gear. The only materials that may come in contact with sample media should be sampling container and maybe nitrile gloves (direct fill being the best case scenario) and sampling equipment if needed. For which we ensure there are blanks associated with the sampling materials (equipment and glove rinse blanks) and proper execution of trace-level sampling protocols (field blanks).

That being said, there may be instances where complex sampling equipment with composite materials (e.g. submersible pumps) may be needed such as for sampling of deep groundwater. In this case, you would want to collect QC samples on the equipment to characterize any potential input. Furthermore, we are in a unique position where our lab can supply us with PFAS-free water, but in very limited quantities. I recommend that you include a rinse water blank with your samples to characterize any background inputs from equipment decon and prep. Historically our lab has not detected PFAS in our source of tap water and DI system, but this may become more of a concern as the detection limits begin to approach the single digit parts per trillion.

Please let me know if you have any further questions. I can also arrange a conference call if you would like to discuss in further detail.

All the best!

Nate

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From: Barton, Clete <Clete.Barton@dnr.ga.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Barlet, Nathan <barlet.nathan@epa.gov>
Cc: Liz Booth <Elizabeth.Booth@dnr.ga.gov>; Jackson, Reid <Reid.Jackson@dnr.ga.gov>
Subject: PFAS Sampling Blanks

Nathan,

Thanks again for the training last week, we really appreciate the help. I was going over the information to with my manager, Dr. Booth. One of the topics we discussed was your approach to do more blanks instead of trying to eliminate any possible PFAS. Have you received hits on your field blanks in the past? If so, how much and do you have any lab data showing what items receives more hits. Also, how do you use that data to compare the field sample?

Thanks,

Clete Barton
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